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# E

PALESTINE

9643

17 JUL 1948

161

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| Registry Number | E9643/1260/31 |
| TELEGRAM FROM | JERUSALEM (Acting Consul General) |
| No. | 280 |
| Dated | 16 Jul 48 |
| Received in Registry | 17 Jul 48 |

**Report that five captured British subjects have been handed over to Haganah.**

Refers to Jerusalem telegram 266 (E9498/1260/31).

Dr Bernard Joseph has informed a member of staff of Consulate-General, Jerusalem that the five men were handed over on 16 Jul to the "armed Forces of the State of Israel" (i.e. Haganah) and that they are being conveyed to Tel Aviv.

Assurance has been given that they will receive all proper facilities as regards legal aid.

Last Paper.

E9639

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) Palestine dest (ok E9611) July 17
copies to Sec State - N Dept
Sec Bor - T Dept
M. July.

(Minutes.)

This morning's Times says that 12. I. have refused to hand them over.

James Prestell. 17.vii.

Yes, but no other paper agrees. The remainder say, if anything, that Sgt Ben announced in Tel Aviv on July 16th that the 5 "are being" or "will be" handed over to Haganah. The graphic (whose correspondent Sam Hayes, though not mentioned, is the probable source, and he has throughout been active on this affair in Jerusalem) is among these papers and adds that Sgt Ben with the division after they arrive "had promised the suspects will be brought to public trial". We must still reserve judgment, but it does look as though the bonfire will come off. Dr Joseph in this tel. says that it had already taken place in Jerusalem on the afternoon of the 15th.

L.B.
17/7

NMLB 20/7
Nbos Dept

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

E 9680

MR CLAIR

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

FROM JERUSALEM TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Acting British Consul General
No. 280.
July 16th, 1948.

D. 3.50.p.m. July 16th, 1948.
R. 5.12.p.m. July 16th, 1948.

Repeated to U.K.Del New York No. 58 Important
Haifa No. 34 Important.

MOST IMMEDIATE

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 280 of July 16th, repeated for information Important to United Kingdom Delegation New York and Important to Haifa.

My telegram No. 266. 1478/1260

Five abducted British subjects.

Dr. Bernard Joseph has just informed member of my staff that men have this afternoon been handed over to "armed forces of State of Israel" (i.e. Haganah) and that they are being conveyed to Tel Aviv.

2. I have asked him that we should be enabled to provide them with legal aid and he assured me that they should receive all proper facilities.

Foreign Office please pass to United Kingdom Delegation as my telegram No. 58.

[Repeated to United Kingdom Delegation New York].

[Copy sent to Middle East Secretariat].

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17 JUL 1948